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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/628,407

07/29/2003

Kiyoshi Kusama

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EXAMINER

HARPER, LEON JONATHAN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2166

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/04/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/628,407	Applicant(s) KUSAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner Leon J. Harper	Art Unit 2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 57,59-65 and 77-86 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 57,59-65 and 77-86 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1, This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 11/17/2008 has been entered. No claims have been amended or cancelled. Claims 77-86 have been added. Accordingly, claims 57, 59-65, 77-86 are pending in this office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 57-59, 62-65, and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6, 134, 347 (hereinafter Niwamoto).

As for claim 57 Niwamoto discloses: means for holding scale-down images including color information of each of a plurality of material images, wherein the scale-down images correspond respectively to the plurality of material images (See column lines); and division means for dividing the original image into a plurality of blocks (See column 8 lines 35-40, column 9 lines 5-20) and determining means for determining selected material images and their positions such that the selected martial images have

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color information similar to color information of respective blocks divided from the original image based on the color information of each of the plurality of material images and the color information of each of the plurality of blocks(See column 9 lines 28-37); first output means for outputting the positions of the selected material images determined by the determination means to the image storage apparatus and wherein the image storage apparatus includes storage means for storing the plurality of material images (See column 10 lines 1-5 and column 17 lines 50-55) and second output means for outputting the selected material images determined by the determination means out of the plurality of material images stored in the storage means according to the positions of the selected material images determined by the determination means (See figure 2, and column 9 lines 29-37).

As for claim 59 the rejection of claim 57 is incorporated, and further Niwamoto discloses: wherein the color information corresponding to the plurality of material images is obtained from a plurality of scale-down images or a plurality of image characteristic parameters corresponding to the plurality of material images (See figure 4).

As for claim 60 the rejection of claim 57 is incorporated, and further Niwamoto discloses: wherein said image processing apparatus further includes receiving means for receiving first information corresponding to the plurality of material images from the image storage apparatus (See column 8 lines 50-65).

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As for claim 61 the rejection of claim 57 is incorporated, and further Niwamoto discloses: wherein the receiving means receives the first information corresponding to the plurality material images during activation of said image processing system (See column 8 lines 50-55).

As for claim 62 the rejection of claim 57 is incorporated, and further Niwamoto discloses: wherein the storage means stores the plurality of material images by dividing the plurality of material images into a plurality of groups, and the determination means determines the selected material images and their positions according to the first information corresponding to a plurality of material images contained in a selected group. (See column 10 lines 5-15).

As for claim 63 the rejection of claim 60 is incorporated, and further Niwamoto discloses: wherein the receiving means receives a mosaic image generated by the first output means (See column 17 lines 45-50).

As for claim 64 the rejection of claim 60 is incorporated, and further Niwamoto discloses: wherein the image processing apparatus receives the material image determined by the determination means from the image storage means by the receiving means and positions the material image received by the receiving means according to

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the position determined by the determination means to form a mosaic image (See column 19 lines 1-10).

As for claim 65, the rejection of claim 57 is incorporated, and further Niwamoto discloses: wherein a plurality of the image processing means are provided and the image storage means can be shared between said plurality of image processing means (See column 10 lines 5-15).

Claims 77-86 are image processing apparatus claims substantially corresponding to claims 57-65 and are thus rejected for the same reasons as set forth in the rejection of claims 57-65.

Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leon J. Harper whose telephone number is 571-272-0759. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM - 4:00Pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LJH
Leon J. Harper
January 30, 2009

/Hosain T Alam/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2166